To create awareness amongst potential emigrant workers on the risks of illegal emigration, the Ministry has launched a nationwide awareness and publicity campaign. In addition, to facilitate the grievance redressal of emigrant workers on a time bound basis, the Ministry is launching a helpline for emigrant workers.

First Hindu Convention

1860. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the First Hindu Convention was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Clark;

(b) whether Indian Ambassador/Officers of the Embassy were invited on the occasion; and

(c) whether a discussion was held regarding contribution made by India and Hindus in the convention?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The New Zealand Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Helen Clark attended the Conference and addressed it.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Return of workers from UAE

1861. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousand of Indian workers in United Arab Emirates (UAE) have returned to India;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the total number of labourers who have been asked to leave UAE; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of the UAE had announced a general amnesty scheme for three months beginning from June, 3 to September 2, 2007 which was later extended upto November 2, 2007 for persons who were staying illegally in UAE either to leave the country without penalty or regularize their stay.

(c) About 70,000 Indian expatriates who were staying illegally benefited from the amnesty and have either left the country or regularized their stay.